



# WISCONSIN REGULATORY DIGEST

## A Publication of the CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINING BOARD

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### Service Corporations and Limited Liability Companies and Partnerships

Section Chir 3.08 of the administrative rules became effective on March 1, 2000. The new rule specifically authorizes chiropractors to organize a practice as a limited liability partnership, a limited liability company, or a service corporation. The rule also contains three provisions which emphasize existing obligations:

- a. the business must not be organized so that a person other than a chiropractor has the right to direct or control the professional judgment of the chiropractor,
- b. a chiropractor remains personally liable for any acts, errors, or omissions of the chiropractor

- c. a chiropractor must maintain professional liability insurance.

For advice or assistance in setting up any of these business entities, contact an attorney. The board and the department are not able to provide that assistance.

### Policy Interpretations

The following policy interpretations have been made by the board on earlier occasions and are reprinted here for reference.

Massage therapy is within the scope of chiropractic.

Homeopathy is not within the scope of chiropractic.

Fitting or prescribing orthotics is within the scope of chiropractic.

The use of magnets for therapeutic effect is not within the scope of chiropractic.

Manipulation under anesthesia (MUA) does not constitute chiropractic treatment utilizing drugs. With MUA, a chiropractor performs a chiropractic adjustment while the patient is sedated under the care of an anesthesiologist who is a licensed physician with a credential to practice medicine and utilize drugs. Minimum guidelines for MUA

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arising out of the performance of professional services, and

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training and practice protocol for chiropractors are that the chiropractor must have completed a course in a CCE-approved program and must have performed at least 15 supervised procedures. In addition, the patient must go through other manipulation before undergoing MUA.

Electrocardiograph and spirometer instruments may be used as diagnostic tools within the scope of chiropractic.

Iontophoresis, as the subcutaneous delivery via electric current of a drug as defined in the statutes, is not within the scope of chiropractic. Invasive procedures are prohibited by sec. Chir 4.05(1)(b). The administration of drugs is prohibited by sec. Chir 4.05(1)(d).

The diagnosis and treatment of temporomandibular joint syndrome (TMJ) is within the scope of chiropractic.

Surface Electromyography (SEMG) may be utilized by a chiropractor for diagnostic purposes, if the chiropractor has completed a 12-hour training program approved by the board. An unlicensed person may operate SEMG equipment under the direct supervision of a chiropractor, if the unlicensed person has completed a 6-hour training program approved by the board.

Needle Electromyography (NEMG) may be utilized by chiropractors for diagnostic purposes. NEMG equipment may be operated only by a chiropractor who has the education, training, and experience necessary to be eligible for, or has been admitted to, diplomate status by the American Board of Chiropractic Neurology (DABCN or DACNB).

#### **Whistleblower Law**

1999 WISCONSIN ACT 176 went into effect on June 2, 2000. The full text of the act follows:

AN ACT *to amend* 111.322 (2m) (a) and 111.322 (2m) (b); and *to create* 106.06 (6), 146.997 and 230.45 (1) (L) of the statutes; **relating to:** disciplinary action against an employee of a health care facility or a health care provider who reports a violation of the law or a violation of a clinical or ethical standard by the health care facility or health care provider or by an employee of the health care facility or health care provider and providing a penalty.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 106.06 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

**106.06 (6)** The division shall receive complaints under s. 146.997 (4) (a) of disciplinary action taken in violation of s. 146.997 (3) and shall process the complaints in the same manner that employment discrimination complaints are processed under s. 111.39.

**SECTION 2.** 111.322 (2m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

**111.322 (2m)** (a) The individual files a complaint or attempts to enforce any right under s. 103.02, 103.10, 103.13, 103.28, 103.32, 103.455, 103.50, 104.12, 109.03, 109.07 or, 109.075 or 146.997 or ss. 101.58 to 101.599 or 103.64 to 103.82.

**SECTION 3.** 111.322 (2m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read: 111.322 **(2m)** (b) The individual testifies or assists in any action or proceeding held under or to enforce any right under s. 103.02, 103.10, 103.13, 103.28, 103.32, 103.455, 103.50, 104.12, 109.03, 109.07 or, 109.075 or 146.997 or ss. 101.58 to 101.599 or 103.64 to 103.82.

**SECTION 4.** 146.997 of the statutes is created to read:

**146.997 Health care worker protection. (1)** DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) “Department” means the department of workforce development.

(b) “Disciplinary action” has the meaning given in s. 230.80 (2).

(c) “Health care facility” means a facility, as defined in s. 647.01 (4), or any hospital, nursing home, community-based residential facility, county home, county infirmary, county hospital, county mental health complex, tuberculosis sanatorium or other place licensed or approved by the department of health and family services under s. 49.70, 49.71, 49.72, 50.03, 50.35, 51.08, 51.09, 58.06, 252.073 or 252.076 or a facility under s. 45.365, 51.05, 51.06, 233.40, 233.41, 233.42 or 252.10.

(d) “Health care provider” means any of the following:

1. A nurse licensed under ch. 441.
2. A chiropractor licensed under ch. 446.
3. A dentist licensed under ch. 447.
4. A physician, podiatrist or physical therapist licensed under ch. 448.
5. An occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, physician assistant or respiratory care practitioner certified under ch. 448.

6. A dietician certified under subch. V of ch. 448.

7. An optometrist licensed under ch. 449.

8. A pharmacist licensed under ch. 450.

9. An acupuncturist certified under ch. 451.

10. A psychologist licensed under ch. 455.

11. A social worker, marriage and family therapist or professional counselor certified under ch. 457.

12. A speech–language pathologist or audiologist licensed under subch. II of ch. 459 or a speech and language pathologist licensed by the department of public instruction.

13. A massage therapist or bodyworker issued a license of registration under subch. XI of ch. 440.

14. An emergency medical technician licensed under s. 146.50 (5) or a first responder.

15. A partnership of any providers specified under subds. 1. to 14.

16. A corporation or limited liability company of any providers specified under subds. 1. to 14. that provides health care services.

17. An operational cooperative sickness care plan organized under ss. 185.981 to 185.985 that directly provides services through salaried employees in its own facility.

18. A hospice licensed under subch. IV of ch. 50

19. A rural medical center, as defined in s. 50.50 (11).

20. A home health agency, as defined in s. 50.49 (1)(a).

**(2) REPORTING PROTECTED.** (a) Any employe of a health care facility or of a health care provider who is aware of any information, the disclosure of which is not expressly prohibited by any state law or rule or any federal law or regulation, that would lead a reasonable person to believe any of the following may report that information to any agency, as defined in s. 111.32 (6) (a), of the state; to any professionally recognized accrediting or standard–setting body that has accredited, certified or otherwise approved the health care facility or health care provider; to any officer or director of the health care facility or health care provider; or to any employe of the health care facility or health care provider who is in a supervisory capacity or in a position to take corrective action:

1. That the health care facility or health care provider or any employe of the health care facility or health care provider has violated any state law or rule or federal law or regulation.

2. That there exists any situation in which the quality of any health care service provided by the health care facility or health care provider or by any employe of the health care facility or health care provider violates any standard established by any state law or rule or federal law or regulation or any clinical or ethical standard established by a professionally recognized accrediting or standard–setting body and poses a potential risk to public health or safety.

(b) An agency or accrediting or standard–setting body that receives a report under par. (a) shall, within 5 days after receiving the report, notify the health care facility or health provider that is the subject of the report, in writing, that a report alleging a violation specified in par. (a) 1. or 2. has been received and provide the health care facility or health care provider with a written summary of the contents of the report, unless the agency, or accrediting or standard–setting body determines that providing that notification and summary would jeopardize an ongoing investigation of a violation alleged in the report. The notification and summary may not disclose the identity of the person who made the report.

(c) Any employe of a health care facility or health care provider may initiate, participate in or testify in any action or proceeding in which a violation specified in par. (a) 1. or 2. is alleged.

(d) Any employe of a health care facility or health care provider may provide any information relating to an alleged violation specified in par. (a) 1. or 2. to any legislator or legislative committee.

### **(3) DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROHIBITED.**

(a) No health care facility or health care provider and no employe of a health care facility or health care provider may take disciplinary action against, or threaten to take disciplinary action against, any person because the person reported in good faith any information under sub. (2) (a), in good faith initiated, participated in or testified in any action or proceeding under sub. (2) (c) or provided in good faith any information under sub. (2) (d) or because the health care facility, health care provider or employe believes that the person reported in good faith any information under sub. (2) (a), in good faith initiated, participated in or testified in any action or proceeding under sub. (2) (c) or provided in good faith any information under sub. (2)(d).

(b) No health care facility or health care provider and no employe of a health care facility or health care provider may take disciplinary action against, or threaten to take disciplinary action against, any person on whose behalf another person reported in good faith any information under

sub. (2) (a), in good faith initiated, participated in or testified in any action or proceeding under sub. (2)(c) or provided in good faith any information under sub. (2) (d) or because the health care facility, health care provider or employee believes that another person reported in good faith any information under sub. (2) (a), in good faith initiated, participated in or testified in any action or proceeding under sub. (2) (c) or provided in good faith any information under sub. (2) (d) on that person's behalf.

(c) For purposes of pars. (a) and (b), an employee is not acting in good faith if the employee reports any information under sub. (2) (a) that the employee knows or should know is false or misleading, initiates, participates in or testifies in any action or proceeding under sub. (2)(c) based on information that the employee knows or should know is false or misleading or provides any information under sub. (2) (d) that the employee knows or should know is false or misleading.

**(4) ENFORCEMENT.** (a) Subject to par. (b), any employee of a health care facility or health care provider who is subjected to disciplinary action, or who is threatened with disciplinary action, in violation of sub. (3) may file a complaint with the department under s. 106.06 (6). If the department finds that a violation of sub. (3) has been committed, the department may take such action under s. 111.39 as will effectuate the purpose of this section.

(b) Any employee of a health care facility operated by an agency, as defined in s. 111.32(6) (a), of the state who is subjected to disciplinary action, or who is threatened with disciplinary action, in violation of sub. (3) may file a complaint with the personnel commission under s. 230.45(1) (L). If the personnel commission finds that a violation of sub. (3) has been committed, the personnel commission may take such action under s. 111.39 as will effectuate the purpose of this section.

(c) Section 111.322 (2m) applies to a disciplinary action arising in connection with any proceeding under par. (a) or (b).

**(5) CIVIL PENALTY.** Any health care facility or health care provider and any employee of a health care facility or health care provider who takes disciplinary action against, or who threatens to take disciplinary action against, any person in violation of sub. (3) may be required to forfeit not more than \$1,000 for a first violation, not more than \$5,000 for a violation committed within 12 months of a previous violation and not more than \$10,000 for a violation committed within 12 months of 2 or more previous violations. The 12-month period shall be

measured by using the dates of the violations that resulted in convictions.

**(6) POSTING OF NOTICE.** Each health care facility and health care provider shall post, in one or more conspicuous places where notices to employees are customarily posted, a notice in a form approved by the department setting forth employees' rights under this section. Any health care facility or health care provider that violates this subsection shall forfeit not more than \$100 for each offense.

**SECTION 5.** 230.45 (1) (L) of the statutes is created to read: 230.45 (1) (L) Receive complaints under s. 146.997(4) (a) of disciplinary action taken in violation of s. 146.997 (3) and, except as provided in sub. (1m), process the complaints in the same manner that employment discrimination complaints are processed under s. 111.39.

#### **SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.**

**(1) EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION.** Within 90 days after the effective date of this subsection, each health care facility, as defined in section 146.997 (1) (b) of the statutes, as created by this act, and each health care provider, as defined in section 146.997 (1) (c) of the statutes, as created by this act, shall inform its employees of their rights and remedies under this act.

#### **SECTION 7. Initial applicability.**

**(1) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.** This act first applies to an employee of a health care facility, as defined in section 146.997 (1) (b) of the statutes, as created by this act, or of a health care provider, as defined in section 146.997 (1) (c) of the statutes, as created by this act, who is affected by a collective bargaining agreement that contains provisions inconsistent with this act on the day on which the collective bargaining agreement expires or is extended, modified or renewed, whichever occurs first.

## Telephone Directory

**Automated Phone System for Chiropractic, Acupuncture, Massage Therapists/ Bodyworkers, Music Art & Dance Therapists, Marriage & Family Therapists, Nursing, Optometry, Professional Counselors, Psychology, & Social Workers: (608) 266-0145.**

- Press 1 To Request an Application  
Press 2 Status of a Pending Application  
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Press 5 to repeat this menu or if you are calling from a rotary telephone, stay on the line and your call will be answered in the order received.

FAX: (608) 261-7083

**To request a license application for your profession, just dial (608) 266-0145, then enter the Quick Keys number below for the profession that you want:**

Application to register for examination	Press 1-5-1-2
Continuing Education Information/Application	Press 1-5-1-3
Chiropractic Endorsement	Press 1-5-1-1
Temporary Permit Application	Press 1-5-1-3

## Verifications

For our new “online Verification of Credential Holders” visit our Website at [www.drl.state.wi.us](http://www.drl.state.wi.us) and click on the “Credential Holder Query” button.

## Endorsements

Requests for endorsements to other states must be in writing. The cost is \$10. Please make check or money order payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

## 2000 Meeting Dates

August 10, September 21, October 12, November 9 and December 14.

## Visit the Department’s Web Site

<http://www.drl.state.wi.us/>  
Send comments to [dorl@dr1.state.wi.us](mailto:dorl@dr1.state.wi.us)

## Digests on Web Site

Complete copies of the September, 1997, September, 1998, March, 1999 and October, 1999 Regulatory Digests are on the Web.

## Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Chiropractic Statutes and Administrative Code can be ordered through the Board Office. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest edition is dated June, 2000.

## Change of Name or Address

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make changes in name or address, and return it to the Department. Confirmation of changes is not automatically provided.

**SECTION 440.11 OF THE WISCONSIN STATUTES ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

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